



Martin F. Dofka Sr.

December 29, 1927 - March 20, 2020

Martin F. Dofka, Sr., 92, of Wheeling, died Friday, March 20, 2020 in Liza's Place.

He was born December 29, 1927 in Wheeling, WV; the son of the late Martin Fredrick and Mary Hoffman Dofka.

He was the owner/operator of Martins Food Market for over 50 years; US Marine veteran of WWII; and a member of St. Michaels Catholic Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Pat Dofka.

Survivors include his wife, Anna Marie Kloss Dofka; five sons, Martin (Julie) Dofka, III, Bill Dofka, Chris (Patty) Dofka, Tim Dofka, Jim Dofka, all of Wheeling; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date at St. Michaels Catholic Church.

Comments



“ Anna and family, please accept my heartfelt sympathy -- I grew up in Pleasanton, my family lived on Arcadia Avenue. Martin's grocery was the only place we shopped -I remember Sonny would let my Mother know when he had fresh sour kraut - Sonny gave me my first paying job! That of delivering flyers with store specials listed - to the entire Pleasanton neighborhood! Everyone was family there - he would give us a piece of candy from the candy counter! He would cut the best meat for my Mother and all his customers!
Sonny was a wonderful and generous man, I am so sorry for your loss.

Susan Gilbert Petran

susan petran - April 02, 2020 at 01:10 PM



“ So sorry to hear about the passing of uncle Martin. It was always nice to see him at the family reunions, and he always had something funny to say, and would tell it like it is. Sarah and I want to extend our deepest condolences to the whole family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Brian & Sarah Kloss and Family

Brian Kloss - March 29, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Sarita - March 23, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ Sarita, I loved your parents and family. It was a wonderful street to live on during our growing years. I am sorry for your lost. Please tell your Mom I said hi and thanks for being a second mother. Stay safe, my friend. Love Mike and Christine Gary.

Christina Gary - August 19, 2020 at 10:30 PM



“ So sorry about the passing of Uncle Martin. Loved seeing him at the family reunions. Always had a joke or two and made me smile. I'm sure he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Jack and I send our condolences to the whole family. You are all in our thoughts.

Debbie Kloss Fowler

Debra Fowler - March 23, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ Sonny was a caring and compassionate man. I lived just 2 doors from his grocery/ florist store on Valley View Ave. He had a heart of gold and Sonny, Ann and I shared my stories and memories with each other. RIP my dear friend.
JOANNE BOSWORTH

JoAnne Bosworth - March 23, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ Thank you Joanne. Like wise for us. RIP Dad.

Sarita - March 23, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ Sorry for your loss, Uncle Martin will be missed by a lot of people. Wish we could have visited more than our family reunions. He will now be guarding the gates of heaven. Semper Fi Uncle Martin till we meet again.

Joe and Cathy Kloss
Oneida, NY



Joe Kloss - March 23, 2020 at 02:28 AM



“ Joe time flies. Glad to hear from you. God Bless.

Sarita - March 23, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ We will miss you always. You always knew how to make us laugh. Your jokes were the best I will forever remember the refrigerator joke. We love you always.



Walter, Pamela, and Caroline Cochrane - March 22, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“

(The Hands Picture)

The youngest and the oldest.

Thank You for everything.

Love you forever.

I was afraid to post anything like this because I didn't want to say the wrong thing or forget something that needed said. His story is long and I could never fit all I wanted, but here's some of what I want to share.

People close to me know how much I loved my Father and knew of the many struggles he endured the last few years.

My Father passed @ 10:15 last night. I was by his side while he passed. A Marine that served during WWII. He was so young to join the service so he lied about his age to get in ;) Check out his Marine Tattoo from when he was serving in Hawaii.

Married 67 years, he had 6 kids, I am the youngest. He loved all of his kids unconditionally. His pride and joy was his grand kids and great grand kids.

He owned and operated Martin's Food Market on Washington Ave. One of the first businesses ever to deliver groceries direct to your house. He was a Butcher, a florist, and farmer that grew the best Sweet Corn in the region. Many knew him as Martin, many knew him as Sonny and Everyone knew Martin's Food Market.

He had a greenhouse next to his business and a second greenhouse at home. He grew flowers for the entire community. After he retired he still enjoyed growing flowers. The man had a Green thumb. In the summer months He loved sitting a few hours selling his flowers, tomato plants, peppers, beets etc... I think it was an excuse to hang out and talk to all the people. It really seems everyone knew him in the tri-state region.

He was a strong believer in God and was loud and proud about it. He was always active in the Church and often handed out communion @ St. Michael's in Wheeling. As the priest Anointed him the night before his passing, he said "Martin you have a straight shot in, you have nothing to worry about". He knew my father well.

I am going to miss him dearly, I already do. At the same time, I feel relief that he is no longer in pain. I'm going to need time by myself, I'm still grasping it all.

Before I end this, I love hearing stories of all the people that knew him and people he touched. Bring them on.

Here's a a short one. I changed my car insurance after 35 years from Allstate to Erie. The agent told me she knew my Dad and when She had cancer he would stop once a week bring her a rose and pray. I teared up when she told me. However, That was him, full of love and loved make everyone feel good.

Rest In Eternal Peace Dad

I Love You Forever



Jim Dofka - March 22, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ Dear Jim, Aunt Anna & Family,
That was a beautiful tribute to Uncle Martin and he will be remembered for all that he did for his family, friends and the community! I know his soul is in Gods hands now and he is at peace with no more pain, only love! Love & prayers from your cousin Kathy Kloss McIntire

Kathy Kloss McIntire - March 23, 2020 at 02:53 AM



“ Yes, JIM....you said it all with such love...God bless you and your family ...memory, reflection, and fondness of a life lived to the fullness.

JoAnne Bosworth - March 23, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ Thank you Kathy, he loved you all very much.

Jim Dofka - March 28, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ Thank you JoAnne, he loved you neighbor.

Jim Dofka - March 28, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ Your tribute to your Father is the most caring, most loving that I have EVER read -- yes, everyone knew Sonny and Martin's grocery store - we are so very fortunate to have done so

susan petran - April 02, 2020 at 01:21 PM



“ Deepest sympathies and condolences to the Dofka family from the Mihalovich family. We grieve with you. May your beloved husband, father and friend Martin rest in peace.

George Mihalovich - March 22, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ George a big thank you for your thoughts.

Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 07:44 PM



“ Thank you George, that means a lot.

Jim Dofka - March 28, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ Dad with his best friends. Adkins his rescue baby and loving best buddy Dr. Yurko. Perfect blend with LOVE of GOD and family crucifix.
I miss you so much already.
I know you suffered. No more pain.
This is my comfort. xoxoxo



Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 05:36 PM



“ I am so sorry about your Dad's passing . May God be with you!!

Darlene Marcischak - March 22, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ Thank you Dar Dar. Now I know how it really was, when your Dad passed. I loved him too.
Miss U.

Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Martin F. Dofka, Sr., give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Marine Veteran, Martin F. Dofka, Sr., is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - March 22, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ A Marine Forever.

Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ Thank you Cheryl. He was an amazing man! I am so proud of my Marine Father!

Jim Dofka - March 22, 2020 at 05:14 PM



“ Hello . I am Debbie kovalski leech . I worked with Julie . So sorry for your loss . May god put his arms around the whole family during this difficult time . God is the mighty comforter

debbie leech - March 22, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ Appreciated.

Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ Dear Sarita,

I am truly sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He played such a vital role in the Washington Avenue neighborhoods with his little grocery store. I have fond memories of it, i.e., riding my bicycle over there just to look inside. May God bless you and your family in this difficult time.

Jim Schmitt

Jim Schmitt - March 22, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ Thank you Jim. Dreaded this day. Life is not promised to us. Thank you very much.

Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ Oh, Pappy. I know you wouldn't want us to cry and be sad but I am going to miss you forever so you are just going to have to deal with my tears. You were my favorite human in the planet and now you aren't here. You were “home” for me. You were always excited about something, you always made me smile and made me excited about life too. I love you .



Lisa Dofka - March 22, 2020 at 09:32 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Martin's passing. We both will be thinking of him and the family during this sad time. Please remember all the good things he did for everyone he came in contact with, I know we will. Peg and John Taylor

John Taylor - March 22, 2020 at 08:56 AM



“ Your thoughts are appreciated. He was such a hard working Father and loved GOD.

Sarita - March 22, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ A genuine gentleman. We loved him like family. He will be missed. Love and peace to all of his wonderful family. Jim & Tami and family

Tami Gallaher - March 21, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Thank you Jim and Tami. Sonny loved you. Always enjoyed your visits for a little fun.

Sarita - March 21, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ Thank You Tami. He loved you so much.

Jim Dofka - March 22, 2020 at 05:12 PM